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SUBJECT: 12th Anniversary of Fenno-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.

On April 6 Finnish officialdom threw itself manfully into the annual exercise of mutual admiration occasioned by the anniversary of the 1948 Fenno-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance. In telegrams and speeches effulgent with praise for the growing amity and cooperation between their two countries, high-ranking Finnish and Soviet Government officials celebrated the existence of the treaty as the touchstone of Finnish-Soviet relations. In a Helsinki speech (see Enclosure 1) Prime Minister V. J. SUKSELAINEN noted that the agreement solemnified the national interests of Finland vis-a-vis the USSR. Remarking specifically on the military provisions of the treaty, he observed that they merely formalized a course of action which Finland would, in any case, pursue in the maintenance of her own best interests and for the preservation of Finnish independence. In addition, he noted, the military provisions of the treaty serve to underscore Finland's neutrality and desire to remain outside of the great power struggle. In Moscow, Professor A. MARKUSHEVITCH, Chairman of the Soviet Union-Finnish Friendship Society, in response to a traditional speech by visiting Minister of Agriculture Teivo ANTILA, declared (see Enclosure 2) that the "greatest international significance of the agreement" lies in the fact that it "offers an example of the peaceful co-existence of two nations with differing economic systems".

The occasion was also marked by Pravda and Izvestiya. The former combined kudos with a dash of castigation when it commented:

"History has shown in a convincing manner that both nations, the Soviet as well as the Finnish nation, can only benefit from good neighborly relations. The good will and wise[illegible] policy of late J. K. Paasikivi, Finland's present President Urho Kekkonen, and other Finnish statesmen and public leaders who make personal efforts to promote the collaboration between Finland and the USSR, have borne fruit.

"This policy is supported by the overwhelming majority of the Finnish people. The strength of the treaty between the Soviet Union and Finland is primarily in the fact that it secures with all the might of the Soviet Union the security, sovereignty and territorial inviolability of Finland. The treaty is an international document which officially declares Finland's neutrality, and is thus a stabilizing

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factor in Northern Europe in accordance with the interests of all the countries in that area.

"No question re[illegible]s open between the USSR and Finland. The Soviet people are s[illegible]d with the status of the Fenno-Soviet relations, and consi[illegible]at they satisfy (Soviet) interests as well as the interests [illegible] the Finnish people -- towards whom the Soviet people feel most sincere sympathy.

"It deems that these relations have to be maintained with utmost care, and that nobody may be permitted to violate them. Because of this, the USSR respects political parties, public organizations and leaders of Finland who constantly advocate the strengthening of the friendship between the Soviet Union and Finland."

Izvestiya, warmly noting the development of a "nice tradition", did not fail to note with disfavor a growing conservative tendency in Finland. It editorialized, inter alia:

"During the existence of the Fenno-Soviet treaty there has not been a single violation of the principles of peaceful coexistence and good neighborly spirit in the relations of these countries. Our country and Finland have logically followed the terms of the treaty, and the situation has developed so that to follow the principles of the treaty has become a natural for us both. This very fact prompted the extension of the period of validity of the treaty by 20 years and the joint formulation of policies by both countries in 1958 towards such basic international problems as disarmament, cessation of nuclear tests and peaceful coexistence.

"While all earlier anniversaries were celebrated in the circumstances of greater international tension and cold war, new and warm winds have now started to blow in the world, bringing along the complete stabilization of the international situation. In these circumstances the cooperation between the USSR and Finland for peace, based on friendship, may be very fruitful, since each of its achievements shows to other nations how the principles of peaceful coexistence can be carried out in practice between countries having a different economic and social system as well as a different view of the world. The peaceful coexistence between the USSR and Finland offers an example to all countries and nations. One shall nevertheless not ignore the fact that the opponents of Fenno-Soviet friendship have not disappeared from the world.

"They advocate the checking of the foreign-political orientation of Finland towards the Soviet Union known as the "Paasikivi-Kekkonen line". They try to force Finland to return to the Western orientation which has caused so much harm to Finland."

The non-Communist Finnish press, while giving wide coverage to the various speeches and prominently displaying photographs of Finnish officials, from President Kekkonen down, in animated conversation with Soviet diplomats and the principal Soviet visitor to Finland, Acting Minister of Culture DANILOV, was far from effusive in its commentary. Independent Helsingin Sanomat called attention to the deterioration which marked Finnish-Soviet relations in the fall of 1958 when the Fagerholm Government fell, and quoted Johannes VIROLAINEN as blaming the then collapse of the government on Soviet dissatisfaction with its composition. The paper speculated that "in the light of the treaty one can only wonder why the Eastern neighbor interferred in our internal life with this kind of pressure", and concluded that "the regrettable breach in friendly Soviet-Finnish relations was not of Finland's making". Conservative Uusi Suomi and Swedish language Hufvudstadsbladet used the celebration as a spring-board for a critique of the Agrarian Party, which they alleged uses Finland's foreign policy as a pretext for roiling the internal political life of the country. Agrarian Maakansa, understandably in support of the present policy, found the various official speeches to be an admirable expression of the warm relations which exist between Finland and the Soviet Union.

The left-wing press was apparently less satisfied with the superficially glowing paeans of which the Finnish officials delivered themselves. Social Democratic Opposition Päivän Sanomat noted darkly that the right-wing attitude was growing in Finland and that the growing military strength of Western Germany is encouraging Finnish right-wingers to endanger the Paasikivi Line by joining EFTA, "a gateway to a political grouping led by Germany and its allies". Communist Kansan Uutiset felt the Finns were not really putting their hearts into the relations with the Soviet Union, and called for more than the maintenance of mere formal relations with the USSR.

For the Ambassador:

Harvey F. Nelson

Harvey F. Nelson, Jr.
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

Speeches (2) at 12th Anniversary Celebration.

Department please pass Amembassies STOCKHOLM, MOSCOW

PRIME MINISTER V. J. SUKSELAINEN'S SPEECH
ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITH USSR

"When we examine the 12-year path since the signing of the treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance between Finland and the Soviet Union, we can note with satisfaction that the conviction has constantly grown stronger among our people that the agreement is in accordance with the national interests of our country. This is natural, because the development of the international position of our country and particularly its relations with the Soviet Union during the past 12 years has as such been a good demonstration that the agreement has corresponded to the interests of our country.

"The significance of the agreement is three-fold: First, it defines Finland's attitude toward a well-known military situation, secondly, it otherwise creates the preconditions for Finland's neutrality, and thirdly, it stakes out the direction for the development of friendly relations between Finland and the Soviet Union.

"As regards the military stipulations of the agreement, they concern, as we know, only the situation in which Finland itself is attacked or the Soviet Union is attacked via Finnish territory. This being the case, the agreement does not place on Finland such obligations which Finland would not try otherwise, in such a situation, to fulfill with all available strength and on the grounds of a realistic political appraisal in order to maintain its independence. This thought was expressed by President J. K. Paasikivi one year before the treaty of friendship was signed.

"Even though Finland's action in a military situation mentioned by the treaty of friendship would thus be clear even without the treaty of friendship, the confirmation of this action by the treaty brings to us the advantage that in changing international conditions it is known that Finland can be left outside all speculations.

"Thus the treaty of friendship itself has contributed to the stabilization of peaceful circumstances in this direction. The peace-loving people of Finland sincerely hope that peace would always prevail and grow more stable in the world, and particularly in our area. In Finland we observe with great satisfaction the efforts of the great powers to abolish tension in the world and to make world peace more firm. Our unanimous desire is that the summit negotiations, which will begin in May between the great powers, will lead to permanent results in this respect.

"Although the military stipulations of the treaty of friendship have not brought about actual change in the international position of Finland, the reference in the treaty to Finland's intention to remain outside the conflicts of interests of the great powers has nevertheless contributed essentially to the development of Finland's position since World War II, as a result of which we now are able to follow neutral policy in international relations, and together with other neutral countries partidipated in international cooperation. Our intention is to follow constantly a sincere policy of neutrality, in accordance with the interests of our country, fulfilling the stipulations of the treaty of friendship.

"But our neutrality does not mean indifference with regard to the Soviet Union. Cherishing of friendly relations, based on mutual understanding and confidence, with our big neighboring country, will always remain our task in correspondence with our national interest. The treaty of friendship has in this respect pointed out the road, and with full reason we can all join in the estimate, expressed by the President of Republic, the then Prime Minister Kekkonen in his speech on the third anniversary of the treaty of friendship, that the main meaning of the treaty, as far as Finland's policies are concerned, is related to the general goal of establishing good neighborly relations and confidential collaboration between Finland and the Soviet Union.

"The development in this respect during the past 12 years has been convincing. The collaboration between our countries has year by year become more varied and the intercourse has exparded. I would like to emphasize, above all, that personal contact has increased, not only as regards political leaders, or the representatives of industries, trade and culture, but among all facets of society. According to statistics, only 1,871 persons travelled from Finland to the Soviet Union in 1949, and 2,204 persons from the Soviet Union to Finland. Last year the corresponding figures were 24,536 and 22,934. Thus the passenger traffic between Finland and the Soviet Union has increased ten times within ten years. As we year by year have learned to know each other better and better, the fences of prejudice have become lower and many misunderstandings have been dispelled. I believe that both sides have learned to understand the way of life of each other and to respect the efforts of both countries toward constant progress. It is clear that the friendship and collaboration must not be left as the affair of only the leading persons but it must always be the affair of the whole people. The friendship of the nations presupposes that the peoples themselves, their large circles, know one another and the pursuits of each other. Only in that way the memories of the unfortunate fates of the past centuries can be finally dispelled and one can get rid of harmful prejudices and suspicions.

"When we recall what has happened in the relations between Finland and the Soviet Union during the 12 years of the existence of the treaty of friendship, we cannot but pay special attention to important events in the economic relations between our countries. As a result of the negotiations held in the summer, a third five-year trade agreement was signed between our countries in Helsinki on October 22, with the first Vice Speaker of the Soviet Council of Ministers, A. I. Mikoyan, attending the occasion as our welcome guest. It guarantees the continuity of the trade exchange between Finland and the Soviet Union until 1965. On December 22 the minutes regarding trade for 1960 were signed in Moscow, and on the same day the agreement was signed regarding the 500 million ruble credit granted by the Soviet Union to Finland for the purchase in the USSR of industrial installations, machinery and equipment for the development of the Finnish economy and for securing employment. The credit will be paid later with Finnish goods.

"As symbols of the economic intercourse I would like to mention particularly the Soviet industrial fair in Helsinki in October that attracted wide attention, and the Finnish industrial fair that will open in Moscow in May. I hope that on their impetus the trade exchange between our countries will constantly expand and become more varied.

"The trade exchange between two countries is based on mutual interests. We are happy in Finland when we can offer to the Soviet Union articles produced by Finnish craftsmen, the purchase of which is appreciated in the Soviet Union.

"The basic precondition for not only the trade exchange but all intercourse must be that it corresponds to the interests of both. The interest of both participants forms the firm basis on which the future can be built. The Finnish people are convinced that the friendship of the neighboring countries, Finland and the Soviet Union, has really been built on a solid foundation."

Speech by Professor A. Markushevitsh, the Chairman of the USSR-Finland Society, on the 12th Anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance:

Moscow, SFB. - On April 6, 12 years have gone since the treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance was signed between the Soviet Union and Finland.

This historical agreement laid the basis for the Soviet-Finnish relations which is based on respect for mutual political sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, and on mutual interests. Both participants considered this agreement as a guarantee of friendship and collaboration between two neighboring countries as well as an important guarantee of peace in Northern Europe.

The 12 years that have passed since the agreement was signed have convincingly shown that the relations, based on this agreement, were virile and fruitful, offering an example of peaceful coexistence between two states which have different political and economic systems. Herein lies the greatest international significance of the agreement.

The varied intercourses between our countries incrdases and develops every year in the fields of economic and cultural life as well as in science and technology. We are glad that lasting personal relations are established both between ordinary citizens and also the statesmen of our countries. The Soviet Union has several times had the opportunity to act as a host to Finnish statesmen, President Paasikivi, President Kekkonen and others.

When President Kekkonen visited the Soviet Union in 1958, the Moscow State University awarded to the high guest the title of honorary doctor, which reveals its admiration and respect of Soviet scientists towards the scientific works of the President as well as towards his great activities as a statesman, which have increased the good neighborly relations between our countries.

The Soviet statesmen - the Chairman of the Council of Ministers N. Khrushchev, the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, K. Voroshilov, the first Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers A. Mikoyan - have visited Finland, where they have been welcomed as dear and honored guests.

Last year a new date has appeared in the diary of our splendid friendship, which gives cause for joy and pride.

One could easily note that no month of the year, beginning on the 11th anniversary of the treaty of friendship, has been fruitless.

In spite of this, the fact may be stressed in this connection that the international life, the general strengthening of peace, has a principal significance toward the relations between the Soviet Union and Finland, which are based on the pursuit of peace.

We stand on the firm and confidential basis of friendly relations, which corresponds to the basic interests of the population of both countries.

Twelve years have passed since the signing of the treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance. We meet the famous red-letter-day with the sun shedding light on the new spring of peace.